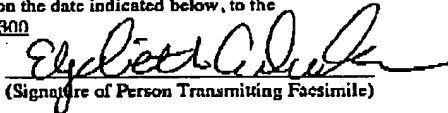


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(Date)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of)

Hisanao Maruyama et al.)

) Examiner: L.R. Edmondson

Title: WELDED PORTION CONSTITUTION
AND WELDING METHOD)

) Art Unit: 1725

Serial No.: 10/786,262)

) Confirmation No. 2410

Filed On: February 25, 2004)

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Hartford, Connecticut, July 25, 2006

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

These amendments and remarks are submitted in response to the
Office Action dated April 26, 2006.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS begin on page 2; and**REMARKS** begin on page 7.